

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A method of providing suggested completions for a numeric data entry, comprising the steps of:
- a) receiving a numeric data entry;
  - b) applying a set of rules to the numeric data entry to identify a candidate match from a list of possible matches; and
  - c) receiving a response signal associated with the candidate match.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the numeric data entry and the list of possible matches are telephone numbers.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the candidate match is provided to a user interface, and the response signal is received from the interface further comprising the steps of:
- d) if the said response signal is an acceptance of the candidate match, replacing said numeric data entry with the candidate match;
  - e) if said response modifies the numeric data entry, continue at step (b) with the modified numeric data entry; and
  - f) if said response is a rejection of the candidate match, displaying the numeric data entry.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the numeric data entry has n digits or less, and the applying a set of rules step comprises the step of retrieving the contents of the address book location identified by the numeric data entry as a candidate match.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the numeric data entry has n digits or less, and the applying a set of rules step comprises the step of retrieving all numbers associated with the address book location identified by the numeric data entry as a candidate match.

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6. The method of claim 1, wherein the number of digits in the numeric data entry entered by the user is equal to  $x$  digits long, where  $x$  is greater than  $m$  but less than  $p$ , and the applying a set of rules step comprises the steps of:

searching through a memory storage device which contains one or more numbers,

identifying stored numbers that match said numeric data entry as a candidate match.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the identifying step comprises comparing the  $x$  most significant digits of the stored number in memory to the numeric data entry.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the numeric data entry entered by the user is  $x$  digits long, where  $x$  is greater than  $q$ , then no candidate matches are displayed to the user.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein a magnetic media device contains a program module to perform the tasks of Claim 1.

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10. A method of providing suggested completions for a numeric data entry, comprising the steps of:

- a) receiving a numeric data entry;
- b) applying a set of rules to the numeric data entry to identify one or more candidate matches from a list of possible matches; and
- c) receiving a response signal associated with at least one of the multiple candidate matches.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the one or more candidate matches are suggested completions to the numeric data entry, and prior to the receiving a response step, providing the multiple candidate matches to a user interface.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the one or more candidate matches are provided to a user interface, and the response signal is received from said user interface, further comprising the steps of:

- d) if said response signal is an acceptance of one of the one or more candidate matches, replacing the numeric data entry with the accepted candidate match;
- e) if the response modifies said numeric data entry continue at step (b) with the modified numeric data entry; and
- f) if the response is a rejection of all of the one or more candidate matches, displaying the numeric data entry.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein duplicate numbers are removed from the one or more candidate matches.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein the numeric data entry entered by the user is equal to or less than n digits long, and the applying a set of rules step comprises the step of retrieving the contents of the address book location identified by the numeric data entry as a candidate match.

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15. The method of claim 10, wherein the numeric data entry entered by the user is equal to or less than  $n$  digits long, and the applying a set of rules step comprises the step of retrieving all numbers associated with the address book location identified by the numeric data entry as a suggested completion.

16. The method of claim 10, wherein the numeric data entry entered by the user is equal to or less than  $x$  digits long, where  $x$  is greater than  $m$ , and less than  $p$ , and the applying a set of rules step comprises the steps of:

searching through a memory storage device, the memory storage device containing one or more stored numbers, and

identifying stored numbers that match said numeric data entry as a candidate matches, and adding these numbers to the multiple candidate matches.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the identifying step comprises comparing the  $x$  most significant digits of the stored number to the numeric data entry.

18. The method of claim 10, wherein if the number of digits in the numeric data entry is equal to  $x$ , and  $x$  is greater than  $q$ , then no candidate matches are displayed to the user.

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19. An apparatus for providing auto-completions for a partially entered numeric data entry by offering candidate matches, said candidate matches being selected from telephone numbers accessible to the apparatus, the apparatus comprising:

- a) a stored telephone number memory interface for accessing a list of stored telephone numbers;
- b) a memory device for containing a program module;
- c) an input interface; and
- e) a processing unit coupled to the memory device, the stored telephone number interface and the input interface, the processing unit being operative in response to the instructions of the program module to:
  - i) receive a numerical data entry from the input interface; and
  - ii) applying a set of rules to identify a candidate match for said numerical data entry from the list of stored telephone numbers accessed via the stored telephone number memory interface.

20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the apparatus is a cellular telephone.

21. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the apparatus is a computer with a modem.

22. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the apparatus is a hand held computer.

23. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the apparatus is a telephone.

24. The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising an output interface, wherein a candidate match is supplied to the output interface.

25. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein a response associated with the candidate match can be provided via the input interface.

26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein if the response is an acceptance, then the numeric data entry is replaced with the candidate match.

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27. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein if the response is a rejection, the numeric data entry is displayed on the user interface.

28. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein if the response is a modification, the set of rules is applied to the modified numeric data entry, and the candidate matches identified by the application of the set of rules are displayed on the user interface.

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